UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, MALAYSIA, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, THAILAND AND VIET NAM

Regional Technical Co-operation in Educational Innovation within the Asian Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (Phase II) (Supplementary Assistance) (RAS/77/047)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	March 1980
Starting date of project activities:	January 1978 (including previous assistance)
Planned completion date:	March 1982
To be executed by:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Government implementing agencies:	Ministries of Education of the Participating Governments in Asia
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$ 650 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In 1972, UNESCO authorized funds for the creation of the Asian Centre of Educational Innovation for Development (ACEID), for the purpose of promoting national efforts in education among Member States. A joint UNESCO/UNDP mission subsequently visited various Asian countries to determine the Governments' interest

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

in establishing a regional programme for technical co-operation in which educational expertise and research findings would be shared. The programme would aim at enhancing the capacity of Member States to design and implement educational innovations which contributed to the solution of national development problems and at encouraging educational reforms that were comprehensive and endogenously conceived and sustained.

2. In 1972, UNDP provided the preparatory assistance needed for drawing up the project proposal;[1/] from 1975 through 1977 it provided assistance to the project, Regional Technical Co-operation in Educational Innovation for Development (RAS/72/065).[2/] The project aimed at promoting awareness of the need for innovation in educational systems, so as to increase their effectiveness and relevance to the development process, and to facilitate technical co-operation in the region in the specific areas of curriculum development, educational technology, methods of teacher training, and science education.

3. To ensure utilization of the project's achievements, to expand it to middle and grass root levels, and to support new areas of educational innovation for development, UNDP assistance for the present Phase II project (RAS/77/047) was approved in 1978.[3/] At this point the Asian Programme of Educational Innovation (APEID) became operational, establishing a viable base for intercountry exchanges of experience and co-operative development efforts in the spirit of technical co-operation for development.

4. Supplementary assistance has now been approved for the purpose of expanding the programme to include additional non-formal approaches to certain educational problems in the region, as recommended at the Sixth Regional Consultative Meeting in April 1979.

II. Objectives and activities

5. The long range objectives of the project remain to: (a) stimulate efforts by Member States to improve the quality of life of their people by creating and strengthening national capabilities for the development and implementation of innovations in education; (b) encourage Member States to increase awareness of the need for relevant changes in education; (c) promote understanding and appreciation of the differences of educational practices and approaches of Member States.

6. The immediate objectives of this supplementary assistance are to: (a) incorporate into the programme, innovative studies on (i) the integration of subject areas in the study on integrating subject primary school curriculum; (ii) in-service primary teacher education; and (iii) programmes for meeting the educational needs of

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1/ DP/16/Add. 153.

2/ DP/PROJECTS/714.

3/ DP/PROJECTS/2439.

the young people without or with incomplete schooling; and (b) expand the attachment/ internship programme through APEID.

III. Inputs

7. Under the supplementary assistance now approved, UNDP will provide for experts, fellowships and group training. The forty-nine Associated Centres of APEID, which are well established institutions receiving financial support from their Governments, will host various regional activities, providing professional and secretarial staff, physical facilities and local hospitality.

IV. Financial data

8. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved $	Present approval $	Total approved $
Experts (including administrative support costs)	804 600	20 700	825 300
Training	477 000	629 300	1 106 300
Equipment	17 200	-	17 200
Miscellaneous	21 200	-	21 200
	1 320 000	650 000	1 970 000

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